

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 16, 1973

10:00 A. M.

J. G. JONES, Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a. m. on Thursday, August 16, 1973, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Jerry G. Jones, Chairman, presiding

PRESENT WERE:

JERRY G. JONES, CHAIRMAN

LLOYD J. AUTIN, VICE CHAIRMAN

DOYLE G. BERRY

MARC DUPUY, JR.

H. CLAY LUTTRELL

JIMMIE THOMPSON

J. BURTON ANGELLE, DIRECTOR

---:---

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of June 22 and July 10, 1973.

R. K. YANCEY

2. Setting of the 1973-74 duck and goose seasons and bag limits. (4)
Taking of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat (27)
3. ~~Game Management Area lease agreement on Greene property in St. Tammany Parish.~~

KENNETH SMITH

4. Consider recommendations for Lake Bistineau drawdown. (31)

HARRY SCHAFFER

5. Opening of oyster reservations. (34)

TED O'NEIL

6. Setting of the 1973-74 trapping season. (36)

GERALD MARTINEZ

7. Consideration of Scenic River Rules and Procedures. (39)

JOE HERRING

8. Consideration of architectural firm appointment for repairs to Saline and Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area buildings. (41)
9. Letter from Attorney General pertaining to deer seasons. (44)
10. Trapping season on Wildlife Management Areas. (44)
11. Request of the East Carroll Parish Police Jury to reduce the days of either sex deer hunting from 5 to 2 days. (47)

OTHER BUSINESS

12. Set September Commission meeting dates. (62)
13. Discussion of special scaup season. (62)

---:---

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting will come to order. You have received copies of the minutes of the June 22 and July 10th meetings. What is your pleasure?

It has been moved by Mr. Thompson that we accept the minutes as published. It has been seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any discussion? Is there any objection?

Hearing none, so ordered.

Mr. Yancey, setting the duck and goose season bag limits. I understand there probably are some people here who would be interested in expressing their expert opinions about how the duck and goose season ought to be. We will proceed by having Mr. Yancey make his presentation and then we will call on anyone that wants to be heard.

RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, I think we all agree that hunting waterfowl in this state is extremely important to an awful lot of people. We've got about a hundred and five thousand or one hundred and twenty-five thousand people that duck and geese hunt in this state and normally these hunters will harvest somewhere between a million and two million ducks and around 50 or 60 thousand geese and at this point we have to arrive at the dates of the duck and goose hunting seasons for 1973-74. We have our Commission Biologists, Larry Soileau and Hugh Bateman, with us today along with a representative sample of duck hunters from around the state. Mr. Soileau and Mr. Bateman have prepared some information that is revelant to this subject if we might briefly go over for your benefit and for the benefit of those in attendance. This first chart shows the kill of ducks in Louisiana by area and it may be of interest

to show that the kill in southwest Louisiana for last year, about 34% of last year's duck kill took place in southwest Louisiana--638,000. In southeast Louisiana, 29% of the ducks were taken--541,000, and in the Delta regions of the state, about 16% of the ducks were taken--303,000. Over in northwest Louisiana, 10% of the ducks--191,000.

In setting the dates it is always wise to look back at the dates we have had in the past and what this has resulted in the way of a harvest in order that we can arrive at the dates that will provide the greatest bag and the most hunting opportunity for the most people in the State. This particular chart reflects a kill in Louisiana for the past several years. Back in the 1968 season, we had thirty days with a bag limit of 3 ducks and there were approximately 860,000 ducks bagged in Louisiana. This was the poorest production year in the entire decade of the 60's in Canada and this is one of the reasons we had the short season and the low bag limit. In 1969 we had a 40 day season with a bag limit of 4 ducks. It started on November 15 and ran to December 24th. There was a bag of about one and one-third million ducks taken in Louisiana. In 1969 was the best duck production year of the 60's in Western Canada, so this is another reason for the considerable increase in kill that year. In 1970 we had an excellent

production year in Canada. It was terrific, really. The best since the mid-50's and we had a split duck season with the first segment running for 23 days and the second segment running for 32 days. A 55 day season, 6 allowed daily, two of which could be mallards and these are the figures for the two segments: about 1.1 million ducks in the first segment and about 1.2 million ducks in the 32-day second segment. Then, in 1971 we also had excellent production in Western Canada. Not as good as in 1970. We had 50 days, 6 ducks, 2 of which could be mallards. A split duck season with the first season running for 18 days. The second segment for 32 days and you can see the kill in the two segments, about 950,000 in the first segment and about a million in the 32-day second segment that closed on January 11th. Last year we had a rather poor production year in Canada. Prairies were beginning to go dry and there was very little production in the prairies. We had a 50-day season, 6 ducks, 2 mallards. A split duck season, the first segment starting on November 4th. The second segment on December 16th and closing on January 11th with 27 days in the second segment, 23 days in the first segment and so the kill then the first segment was 937 and the second segment was 944. Now, of course, Hugh Bateman runs our waterfowl censuses that are made twice monthly during the fall and

winter and as a result from the information he gathers we have the migration dates for the various species and the distribution of ducks in Louisiana and also this information we have on the migration and distribution is a part and has a big bearing on their recommendations as to when the best duck seasons would be.

Now, this year we have been offered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for the duck season one of three options under a framework of October 1 to January 20th. The first option that the Commission has to consider is a 40-day duck season, 4 ducks, all of which can be mallards, 2 of which could be wood ducks.

The second option would be a 40-day season, 5 ducks, two of which could be mallards, 2 woodducks.

The third option would be a 45-day point system with 100 points allowed daily. 15 point birds would include blue wing teal, green wing teal, scaup, widgeon, schoveller and gadwall. 25 point birds would include pintail, mallard drakes, mottle ducks, ring-neck ducks. 90 point birds would be mallard hens, woodducks. 100 point birds would be canvasback and redhead, except in Caddo, St. Charles and St. Mary where the season on these two species will be closed. What this really means is that if you shoot 15 point birds, then you could have a maximum of 7 birds allowed daily, or if you shot

a 90 point bird first then you could take only one additional bird which would allow you a possible 2 bird bag daily. So this means that if a hunter can identify ducks in flight he can, particularly in the marsh country, select low birds and come out of the marsh with 7 ducks.

As you kill each duck then you begin to accumulate points and you are allowed up to 100 points. You could take 6, 15 point birds, which would give you 90 points and then you can take one additional duck to go with that. It could be a 25 or 90 point bird.

Now, this is complicated. It's going to be difficult for a lot of people in this state to get adjusted to but all we can say is it has been utilized in other states in the Central, in the Mississippi, and the Atlantic Flyway for the past three years. Hunters like it in those states and the game department people like it. We checked with them and it's almost a unanimous feeling on the part of those people that while it is complex, it's difficult to get adjusted to, it has been very well received by the duck hunters in the other states where it has been carried out in the past 3 or 4 years.

Now, under options A and B, the shooting hours would be one half hour before sunrise to sunset as they have in the past. Under option 3, the shooting hours would be sunrise

to sunset. We, of course, have objected to that and I think if the Board decides to go with option 3 you would want to accept those shooting hours under protest because the Louisiana duck hunter likes to start his shooting when he can see after he gets in his blind which is within that 30 minutes before sunrise and this is going to probably lead to some unnecessary violations. There is no penalty in the event the Commission decides to split the duck season. There would be no loss of hunting days. In other years, there has been a 10% of hunting days if a split is elected but that's part of the plan for this season. So, at this point, Mr. Chairman, perhaps you would want to invite comments from the audience or maybe you would want to have our biologists make their recommendation first.

THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't we hear from some other experts now.

RICHARD YANCEY: I might also add that the goose season were allowed 70 days of goose hunting with a framework running into February 14th and the bag limits would be the same as last year, 5 daily, 2 of which can be white fronts, a closed season on Canada geese.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone that would like to be heard regarding the duck or goose season? Everybody is happy.

Yes, sir. Would you come to the microphone for the

records. State your name and your address, please.

FRANK SAVOIE: Mr. Chairman, I am Frank Savoie from Jennings, Louisiana, and I represent a crew from the southwest Louisiana area which couldn't be here today. We would strongly recommend the split season. We get our pintail and teal early. If we start late we won't be able to get our share of those and our mallards have just not been in large numbers lately and we would very definitely recommend the split season ending at Thanksgiving. The second half would be whatever the Commission would choose to set. That seems to be the consensus of opinion of several hundred people that I have contacted. Thank you for listening to me.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there anyone else that would like to be heard.

JERRY DEMURRAY: I'm Jerry Demurray. I'm from Lake Charles and with the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club. In our area we have been talking this thing over for about a year and we would actually like to see the Commission go with the split season. We feel just like the man from Jennings, that our ducks we get more of the pintail, mallard, not necessarily the mallard, I'm sorry on that, the pintail, gadwall, widgeon, things of this sort. We get more ducks like this in the early season and then our mallards. The few that we are now getting are

coming down later in the year. With the split season, we could also give more adequate hunting for the people that can only hunt on the weekends.

This split season would give more weekends open to everyone. It would also take into consideration the youngsters in school and this is one of the things that we are concerned with. So, I would like to say, we would like to see a split season for this year. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Jerry. Next.

JACK RAWD: Mr. Chairman, gentlemen of the Board. I'm Jack Rawd from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and I represent some two thousand hunters that I host during the hunting season. We run a commercial club out of the Sheraton-Chateau Charles Hotel. Most of these people are residents of Louisiana. We are in favor of a split season. In fact, we need it very badly for our area as the other gentlemen have said due to the fact that the ducks leave the latter part of the season. Certainly, we would be happy to split the season and that would give us some ducks and the people in North Louisiana, certainly, would give them, they would have the longer seasons. Our recommendation was from November 10th to November 25th and from December 8th to January 5th but we certainly want to go along with the recommendations of the

biologists, the people of our area. Thank you, gentlemen, very much for allowing me the privilege of appearing before you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Yes, sir.

EDGAR VEILLION: My name is Edgar Veillion, President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. I'd like to have it read into the records that the Federation opposes its position for a late straight season. Many of you people that have attended our conventions over the years know that we have traditionally had a fight between the north and the south regarding a split or a straight. Well, this past year even the people in the northern part of the state that would ordinarily want a split, voted unanimously with us for a late straight based on their experience for the past two years. We know that in theory a split is good for the whole state but if you miss your calculations for the early birds coming through you can blow a valuable part of the season so as I say, we definitely recommend a late straight season. We feel that this would be best based on not theory but experience. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Edgar. Is there anyone else? The rest of the duck hunters must be happy.

LYNN GUION: Lynn Guion, I don't represent any club or anything. I just hunt in southeast Louisiana and I kinda like to go

along with the late straight also. However, I think its more important that we think about either proposition A, B or C, as Mr. Yancey pointed out with the point system in consideration. I would like to speak in favor of the point system. That's proposition C, late straight season. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else? Yes, sir.

PHILLIP BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I'm Phillip Brown. I'm from Lake Providence, Louisiana. Everybody else seems to be from south Louisiana. I'm right up in the northeast corner on the Mississippi River and I would like to say that I don't represent anybody specifically except a couple of small Ducks Unlimited organizations and they favor a late straight season with strong consideration for the point system. We feel, as these other gentlemen do, that everybody in the state will benefit better because of experience. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone else? Dick, what do you all suggest?

RICHARD YANCEY: All right. We might further add for the benefit for those in attendance that we have been receiving recommendations on this duck season from back in February of this year and the Commission held a public hearing over in Alexandria in June and received quite a few recommendations on times for the duck season at that time and in the past ten days we developed a file here about 3 inches thick that's composed of recommendations for duck season dates from throughout the state and all of this is being taken into consideration

by the Commission for these duck season dates. So at this point, I presume it would be advisable that we hear our recommendations of our water fowl biologists and I call on Larry Soileau.

LARRY SOILEAU: Our recommendation for the waterfowl season for 1973-74, we recommend that the Commission select the point system option and that will allow 45 days. We recommend a split season with about a third of the season coming early, beginning on Saturday, November 10th, and going through Sunday, November 25th, for 16 days, and that the second segment begin on Saturday, December 15th and run for 29 days until Saturday, January 12th. We do recognize that there is a strong sentiment in the state for a late season. The framework, by the way, goes from October 1 through January 20, Sunday, January 20th. I think we should resolve that before we give you the recommendation on the goose season, or do you want both?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, that will be fine. Incidentally, while Larry is there let me say on behalf of the Commission and for those of you that don't know, you recall all the publicity about the Lake Andes duck kill, Larry Soileau was the man that was on top of the thing for the Commission and I think did an excellent job in the work that he did. OK. We've

got six other experts up here now. What do you want to do?

Mr. Luttrell. Yes, sir.

CLAY LUTTRELL: As I guess the outstanding and most outspoken person for a late straight season and have gotten ahold of this big folder and done some soul searching last night. I'd like to propose a season. First, I move that we take the point system. Second, I move to have the early, that we have a split season, starting on November 10th and ending on November 24th, giving 15 days for the first half and then start on December 22nd and go to January 20th, giving the late straight people a big block of the late hunting. Now, that would be the seasons I would propose.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. It's been moved and seconded. Moved by Mr. Luttrell and seconded by Mr. Berry that we adopt the point system.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Before we vote, I think you are fixing to call for a vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, not yet. I was just going to make it plain that we understood and then you all could have a discussion.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: No, I just wondered if there were any other recommendations from the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: His was November 10th to November 24th;

December 22nd to January 20th. Are there any other recommendations? Is there any discussion on that motion?

MARC DUPUY: I want to make a comment, if you will, with regard to that. Ladies and gentlemen in the audience, this year we have January 20th as the outside limit of the framework. It's my personal feeling that in offering a season for the late straight hunters of which I am one proponent of the late straight season of all of the month of January and going from January 20th back to the first weekend before Christmas, or December 22nd, I really think that we are satisfying the late straight hunters and at the same time if we were to continue with the late straight, 45 days from January 20th all the way back, it would take us to December 8th. This would be pretty much wasting in my estimation not being a professional biologist but nevertheless an experienced duck hunter that we would be wasting several days, perhaps two weeks of time. The early part of December has historically in the past been pretty much bluebird weather and warm balmy days, good fishing, and not very much duck hunting. At the same time we need to consider at least 50% of the state is interested in the split and the early flights. I believe that with November 10 to November 24 which follows the recommendations of the biologists and of most of the people

hunting in the south in the marsh area and moving the biologists' recommendation from December 15th back to December 22nd. I don't see how any late straight hunter could complain with a season going all the way to the end of the limit of January 20th and so this is my recommendation also.

JIMMY THOMPSON: I would like to make an observation. I believe I am correct; I may be one year off. The last that we have had a season that was capable of, maybe not capable, that was set to end in other than the first third of the month of January is this year. That's practically 30 years, 28, 29, 30 yrs. since we've had . . . Most duck hunters today don't even remember a duck season that could have gone this long. I think about the 12th of the month was as far as its gone in this interim period. Certainly this is something that will, all of us will have to wait because we are getting a later season than for all practical purposes than we have ever had if you set it at the 20th and back up those days.

CLAY LUTTRELL: Jerry, let me tell you the exact dates. That happened in 1944 and 1945. Two years. Since that time we haven't had a January 20th. We haven't had anything past the first, the first third, see. One or two on the 12th. One on the 13th.

JERRY JONES: Is there any other discussion?

RICHARD YANCEY: Jerry, could I point out one thing here. The Thanksgiving Holiday runs from November 22nd through Sunday, the 25th, so if you close on the 24th you are going to lose that Sunday in those Thanksgiving Holidays on the 25th. Now, if you would take that day off January 20th, then you would lose Sunday, January 20th, rather than Sunday, November 25th, and, of course, the biologists have recommended that we run through the 25th. This would give you 16 days in November with all of your Thanksgiving Holidays included and 29 days that would close then on Saturday, January 19th, and start on Saturday, December 22nd, so you are going to have to lose one of those Sundays and the question is which one should you cut out and we think you would get more hunter opportunity by having it open on November 25th because that is a part of the Thanksgiving Holidays. We recommend that you delete January 20th rather than November 25th because of that Thanksgiving period. I don't know if that was considered in the motion but it merits some consideration.

CLAY LUTTRELL: Yes, I considered it. Frankly, a large number of people who came here to express their opinion should have been in Alexandria and we would have had more of a mandate. You see, the Alexandria vote was in favor of the late straight people so I gave a little bit to them. Now, I personally could go along with the 19th just as easily.

RICHARD YANCEY: We believe you would have more hunter participation if you had it open on November 25th.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Probably so, Dick, but since we haven't had, let's have it the 20th.

RICHARD YANCEY: That's up to you. I just wanted to bring it out, see.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Well, let me point out this, if I may. As I understand and I'm taking the information I received here that the Thanksgiving holidays will have a full week with the exception of that Sunday to hunt. I'm talking about the school kids or people who are off for that week so certainly they have had ample opportunity to hunt. In other words, they are not tied for any particular reason so since we haven't had this for practically 30 years this later date, I personally would like it to go just as late as possible and then let's find out. You know, an observation, regardless of how we set it it's all going to depend on the man upstairs. If we get the proper weather it's going to be an excellent season. If we don't get the proper weather it's going to be the worst you ever had so it just depends on the type weather we get. I'd rather stay with the 20th.

CLAY LUTTRELL: My personal views. If you so choose I'll go along with you but I personally rather stay with the 20th.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion? All those in favor of the motion say "aye."

FROM THE FLOOR: I'd like to comment on statement Mr. Thompson just made for the late straight, talking about the weather -- Good weather has been coming later every year so in effect that's another reason for the late straight.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, I think Mr. Luttrell's suggestion of a season really allows you to go the latest date and gives you a greater part of the season late so I think his comments are appropriate that in making satisfaction for those people by doing that. Yes, sir.

FROM THE FLOOR: (question directed to Richard Yancey inaudible)

RICHARD YANCEY: Then you would start on a Sunday and that is extremely unpopular in Louisiana. We found that when you want to start a hunting season in this state and be safe and keep your scalp you start on a Saturday.

THE CHAIRMAN: You see what the real problem is the Federal Government gives us the framework and we don't participate really in that decision-making part and we wind up having to sort of make compromises with some of these things in order to fit in with that framework. OK. Are we ready to vote on

that? All of those in favor of the motion say "aye."

Opposed? (Unanimously passed)

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's go to the goose season. Larry.

LARRY SOILEAU: We've been offered a 70 day goose season with a framework of October 1 through February 14th. We are recommending that the goose season run concurrent with the duck season opening November 10 and closing November 24 for 15 days and reopening on December 22 and running through February 14th for 55 days.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the last date that we could have?

LARRY SOILEAU: 14th of February.

THE CHAIRMAN: So it works out perfect.

LARRY SOILEAU: Yes. February 14th.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Ends on the 14th. Worked out that way?

LARRY SOILEAU: Yes, sir.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson. Is there a second. Seconded by Mr. Berry. The motion is November 10 to November 24; December 22 through February 14. Is there any discussion?

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I guarantee you the Federal boys don't know we are going to come out that even. They would have

figured some way to get it all messed up.

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor say "aye." Opposed?

Fine. (Unanimously passed)

RICHARD YANCEY: We are also offered, since you have chosen the point system as a third option, we are also offered this special scaup season which would have to run separate and apart from the duck season. However, that is offered only on the open water lakes where the duck population comprises 90% or more scaup which would mean Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne. You couldn't hunt in the marsh. You would have to hunt out on that lake and we had that back in January of 1969 and we didn't get any participation in it at all. We would recommend that we just not set a special scaup season. It will not provide any hunting opportunity because you can't hunt those big water lakes in January. We asked that they offer this special scaup season in the coastal marsh area. However, they would not agree to that. In the same area where the bonus scaup option has been offered in the past. They wouldn't agree to that. We then suggested over in southwest Louisiana coming along the Grand Chenier, Pecan Island Highway as the north boundary. They wouldn't agree to that either. They said it could be open only in these big open water lakes in southwest Louisiana that you

can't hunt, so we would suggest that you just not go with that. I don't think you need a resolution on it or anything, we just leave it out.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Should we? I'm going to vote your way if it comes to a vote or just leave it out. But, should we accept this? Does this alter our scaup season in our regular framework? I don't understand.

RICHARD THOMPSON: Under the point system, scaup are 15 point birds.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Would this alter that?

RICHARD YANCEY: We will have no bonus scaup area in this state under the point system.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: No, I'm not following you or you are not following me. Should we choose to have a special scaup season in these three areas: Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain, etc.? Would this effect our point system we have just chosen? Would that eliminate it? We would have that --

RICHARD YANCEY: No, that would have no effect. In other words, this special scaup season would run -- the framework on that is January 31st and you would start then January 21st and it would run for ten days then to January 31st. You are allowed 16 days but since this special scaup has to be

separate and apart from the regular duck season then it would start after the regular duck season closes, the day after.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: OK. One other question then. It appears to me that we are just leaving something on the table. In other words, maybe one whole joker that want's to go hunt those. Should we eliminate that or is there a reason for us eliminating it?

RICHARD YANCEY: Well, all we know is --

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Is there a problem of some type?

RICHARD YANCEY: Well, possibly an enforcement problem but we had it in 1969 and there was no participation in it.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: None whatsoever.

RICHARD YANCEY: But, if you all want to set it, we'll go ahead and set it.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: No, I don't. I'm asking merely as a point of information. Is there any reason not to? Enforcement, is that a big enough reason? Could someone use this as --

RICHARD YANCEY: Yes, the Bureau, I guess so.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: The Bureau?

RICHARD YANCEY: But if you want to set it, you can certainly set it.

CLAY LUTTRELL: Let me ask you this. If we have no participation and there is no good results coming from it with the

money as scarce as it is, I don't see where we should tax our enforcement people in the extra expense.

RICHARD YANCEY: Yes.

CLAY LUTTRELL: And, if you think it would be better, we'll just resolve to eliminate it.

RICHARD YANCEY: I think we should just pass it by. It's been offered; you don't have to accept it.

MARC DUPUY: I have a different view on it. It seems to me that with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife making more restrictions year after year that if we are offered a season and we turn it down, I think we are not only passing hunter opportunity and I don't think that using enforcement problems or the cost of enforcement is a fair consideration to weigh against the hunter opportunity. I really believe that we would be making a mistake in not accepting this special scaup season. As you recall, we had a bonus scaup when we had the base seasons, an extra two scaup a day because of the choice of the point season, the point system, the scaup is included in the point system and you are excluded from having a bonus but as a reason for not only states in the Mississippi Flyway, but all the other flyways having the opportunity to hunt scaup for those states that are not selecting the point system. The Bureau offered this special

scaup season after the regular seasons and I really think we would be missing an opportunity and perhaps the offer may not be made again next year if we pass it up and we say "no".

"We're not interested in it." Maybe it won't be offered next year.

DOYLE BERRY: I agree with you 100 per cent on that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think if we go ahead and have it and we have the experience of people not taking advantage of it, it's more evidence for us to submit to the Bureau how ridiculous the thing was from the beginning. We have one year of experience with such a season. Let's have another year and if nobody participates in it, then we have more reason for telling them, well, "next year don't do that, do it the way we recommend it." Let's have the bonus scaup instead.

RICHARD YANCEY: This then would mean it would start on Monday, January 21st, and close at sunset on Thursday, January 31st. If you want to set it, well, that's fine. We can go ahead with it.

MARC DUPUY: I'll make it in a form of a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: It's been moved by Mr. Dupuy. Is there a second?

LLOYD AUTIN: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor say "aye" Opposed.

(Unanimously passed)

RICHARD YANCEY: We have one more resolution we would like to propose and that has to do with the taking of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat. We would like to propose that the Commission adopt the exactly the same regulation that we have had for the past several years with regard to the taking of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat which would mean that the motor has to be shut off and the progress of the boat has to cease before the duck can be shot. The Federal people have chosen this year to make it legal to shoot crippled waterfowl from a boat under power and we feel that this will be an additional harrassment factor for ducks, particularly, on these public hunting areas around the state. It will tend to drive these ducks and birds from the lake sooner than they would be driven from the lake from ordinary hunting pressure and we feel it would create some real enforcement problems in that every duck an agent sees shot from a boat under power would naturally be a crippled duck. With these reasons in mind, we would like to recommend that the Commission adopt this resolution that we have the same provisions that we have had in the past with regard to taking crippled waterfowl from

a boat under power.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

LLOYD AUTIN: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Autin.

CLAY LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor say "aye." Opposed. (Unanimously approved) So ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here
made a part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that no person shall take migratory game birds from or by means of any motor boat or any other water craft having a motor attached unless the motor has been completely shut off and its forward progress therefrom has ceased: provided, that a craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power.

RICHARD YANCEY: I believe that covers the discussion on the waterfowl seasons.

THE CHAIRMAN: I had one further comment. A lot of these figures and a lot of this discussion you see is from our

people as a result of a lot of work, especially a lot of work on the part of Hugh Bateman and Larry Soileau, Dick Yancey and Marc Dupuy. They took a trip to Canada and made aerial observations and week before last or last week, Marc and Dick went to the Migratory Waterfowl Meeting in Washington. They participated in negotiations and after that I think resulted in the framework being expanded to a certain extent. We received excellent cooperation from the Congressional delegation in accomplishing that although we didn't get everything we wanted. I think the joint work of all of these people resulted in the framework that we have and on behalf of the Commission, we say "thank you."

RICHARD YANCEY: During the trip to Canada, of course, Mr. Angelle and Mr. Dupuy went with us and we found a real good duck production in the parklands as compared to last year. The prairies were dry, productions are going to be off from the prairies and then we went on up in the bush country and found one we considered to be a normal distribution and normal production for that bush country that lies in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. But, the next item on the agenda.

THE CHAIRMAN: One more comment. Mr. Dupuy went at his own expense.

FROM THE FLOOR: Did you vote on the point system?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

RICHARD YANCEY: Let's reiterate exactly what the dates will be for those in attendance here. Perhaps there has been some confusion here. The duck season would open on Saturday, November 10th and close on Saturday, November 24th, at sunset. It would reopen on Saturday, December 22nd and close on Sunday, January 20th, and we would, our hunters will use the point system. I think we have already explained that and then the first segment of the goose season will run concurrent with the first segment of the duck season. The second segment of the goose season will start on Saturday, December 22nd and extend through February 14th. Is there any other questions about the dates?

FROM THE FLOOR: I would like to ask a question about the scaup season. Exactly where can you hunt for scaup?

RICHARD YANCEY: All right. We are going to have to get on the ball after this meeting and see what the Federal people will agree to. They have already set this. They are not going to allow this in the marshes or in the upstate areas. The only place they are going to allow it is in lakes where the duck population consists of 90% or more scaup which would mean that other types of ducks would have to be less than 9% of that population as we pointed out earlier. Then this

scaup season will start on Monday, January 21st and close on Thursday, January 31st, but it's going to be very, very limited in this state, probably the open waters of Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne, and perhaps Cataouatche and Salvadore as it was back in the early part of 1969.

FROM THE FLOOR: We are definitely going to go with Cataouatche and Salvadore. What about the open marsh area in Chandeleur Sound?

RICHARD YANCEY: You've got a large redhead population that winters out in the Chandeleur Sound. Twenty or twenty-five thousand ducks and they wouldn't -- We can propose this if you wish but I can almost say with certainty that they are not going to agree with it. We talked with them about this yesterday and what we suggest naturally has to meet with their approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: As I understand it, they are going to designate the area.

RICHARD YANCEY: That's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. Any other questions? Let's move.

KENNETH SMITH: It has been delegated to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission the responsibility to manage Lake Bistineau. Since that time we've come to you with recommendations as to lowering the water level or stabilizing

the water level in the lake and it's two years, 1970-71 the water level was lowered to help control commercial aquatics and then last year recommendation was to allow the lake to remain stable in order to improve fish populations which this would probably be done for two or three year period provided commercial aquatics did not get to be too bad of a problem. This year we found that the submergents did get to be a terrific problem. In the area of the lake the zero to 4 ft. depth we found a 60% increase in the submergent vegetation. In the area 4 to 8 ft. there was actually about a 50% reduction but in the shallow parts that is where most of your fishing activity takes place. So, this year we are recommending a drawdown on the lake to begin September 4th. This is the day after Labor Day when the peak of the boating activity occurs. It drops off after the Labor Day holidays. We recommend it be drawn down at the rate of 4 inches a day until a 7 ft. drawdown is reached. The gates would remain closed until January 15th. This would give us a drying period in October and possibly some freezes in January which help control submergent aquatics. In addition, we need to pull water down due to planned improvements that have been funded for Lake Bistineau in the form of boat ramp and some stump removal in some of the boat roads and skiing areas. This is our recommendation on the drawdown for this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MARC DUPUY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy. Is there a second?

LLOYD AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? Any objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here
made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, submergent aquatic vegetation growth has increased in shallow water areas in Lake Bistineau, and

WHEREAS, planned lake improvement in the form of a boat ramp, stump removal and water control gate repair, will require the lowering of the water in the lake,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the water level in Lake Bistineau is to be drawn from 142 feet mean sea level (pool stage), to 135 feet mean sea level--a total of 7 feet--drawdown to begin September 4, 1973.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry.

HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, as you know we have three oyster seed reservations that open on an every other year basis. Sister Lake in Terrebonne Parish was supposed to be open this year but because of the high and much fresh water, most oysters in that area suffered great mortalities and we would recommend that this not be opened at this time, this season. Bay Gardene is supposed to be open this year. There are a few oysters in there. We checked them. We would recommend that it be opened from September 1st to the 15th and then if all the oysters are not harvested in there at that time, have another 15 day season going through the 30th. We intend to put a shell plant in there from some Federal money that we have application for and we would like for these oysters to be harvested before we put our shell plant in. Bay Junop was supposed to be closed this year since it was opened this past season but there are oysters available in there. We would hope that we could get a late spawn out of some of the oysters in there and we would recommend that this be opened on October 1st.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

DOYLE BERRY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry. Is there a second?

LLOYD AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Autin. Any further discussion? Any objection? Hearing none, so ordered. Thank you, Harry.

(Text of the resolution is here
made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the biologists of the Division of Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods have checked the amount of seed stock to ascertain if there is an available amount to be taken from the areas, and

WHEREAS, in past years the oyster seed reservations were managed on alternate year basis, but the schedule has been disrupted due to the availability of oyster spat in the areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby announce, at its monthly public meeting, held in New Orleans, on Thursday, August 16, 1973, that the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation shall be open for a 15 day period, beginning on September 1, 1973, and shall be considered for an extension depending upon the availability of the seed stock.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Commission does hereby declare the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation to remain closed as there is not a sufficient amount of spat at this time. Therefore, in order to aid the oyster fishermen in the area, said Commission does hereby open the Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation beginning October 1, 1973.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director and Assistant Director is hereby authorized and empowered to close the afore-mentioned seasons should it become biologically necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. O'Neil.

TED O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman, gentlemen of the Commission, I would like to report conditions in the marsh are greatly improved over last year due I think a lot to the Mississippi River waters of Bonne Carre Spillway being turned loose in the marshes and the trappers seem to have a great deal of interest in trapping this year and prices are right but there is a shortage of traps and they seem all to be happy. I wrote to everybody interested in the fur industry as to a recommendation for the season and they all agree that we are about right where we were last year and year before last and that is to open the season on December 1st and run through

February 28th but I would like to point out that if we catch long spells of hot foggy weather which we will know happens, we'll have the weather forecast, you can watch. We may have a little hassle at the end, but I suggest we set the season at December 1st to February 28th.

DOYLE BERRY: What is your opinion about St. Mary and Terrebonne areas where marshes are along down there?

TED O'NEIL: It is just improved conditions greatly on three-corner grass. The water went down, went out the other day with LL & E and the helicopter and I worked a lot of those areas. As that water dropped out the cutter grasses came right in behind it. Some of the tall grasses that were up during this high water died or when the water went down it changed over and underneath a good coat of young tender grass and we just hope that we don't get a saltwater storm on top of this tender grass but we do have some beautiful conditions just lately in the last three or four weeks, right in behind the high water.

DOYLE BERRY: -- Coming down the Atchafalaya route going the back way, I just didn't see many nutria and I was down there several times recently. Went down in the morning one time, in the afternoon and came back at night and seems like the

nutria population was real, real weak, in that particular area. Drowned in high water or left out of there.

TED O'NEIL: No. They did leave to feed but they will come back because they are piled up a little to the southeast of there. There is a tremendous population of nutria. In fact, there are so many in that area to the southeast of where you are talking about that they will have to move. As that grass comes in on Plumb Bayou and up in there where you are talking about, they'll move back but certain spots in the marsh have too many nutria right now. You just can't see a nutria in the summertime. They stay in the shade. You won't see them. Everybody reports that. They say, "there's no nutria, no nutria," but you get up in the air in a helicopter and you have to look, really you can't see too many nutria that way, except trails coming, or ponds drier where you have lamina matter on the ponds that feed. You can see thousands of trails. You can tell by the trails how many nutria and look at the cattails. You have to know how to look for a nutria now in the hot weather. He won't stand that sun at all, he'll try to get out of it during the day.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard Mr. O'Neil's recommendation. What is your pleasure?

CLAY LUTTRELL: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell.

DOYLE BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(no response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here
made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the trapping season for nutria, beaver, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, opossum, skunk, bobcat and fox for the 1973-74 season, from December 1, 1973, through February 28, 1974.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if additional time is required to prevent the overpopulation of nutria and muskrat in some areas, recommendations for an extended season be presented to the Commission's January, 1974, Board Meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gerald.

GERALD MARTINEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Natural and Scenic Rivers Systems Act names the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission as Administrator. In that very language the Wild

Life and Fisheries Commission shall be the administrator of the Act. It does not provide procedures and this is for the Commission to adopt a set of guidelines and procedures. For that purpose, the Commission through its attorneys consulted the Sea Grant Legal Research Department at the Louisiana State University Law School to prepare a draft which they did.

This draft was then considered by all the agencies that have responsibilities under the Act, the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, the Attorney General's Office, the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the State Planning Office, and the Governor's Council on Environmental Quality. I have here, I believe you have before you, the suggested guidelines and procedures that resulted from that meeting and I would recommend that they be published as being under consideration by the Commission in accordance with the administrative procedure act for action at the next meeting of the Commission in September.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MARC DUPUY: I would like to suggest that these be published as proposed as suggested guidelines and procedure and that within the 30 day period between now and the next meeting that people who are interested be invited to suggest improvements

in the procedure and that we adopt it at that time.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure?

MARC DUPUY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy. Is there a second?

LLOYD AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor say "aye." Opposed?

(Unanimously passed)

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe.

JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to the recent floods, our Saline and Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Headquarter facilities were completely destroyed so the Federal Disaster Administration will pay for reconstruction of these 100 per cent of the cost. The State Division of Administration has named Mr. William Baker of Winnsboro as Architect for the construction of these facilities on the two areas. Mr. Baker has worked for us before; in fact, he was the original architect for these buildings and by him being the original architect and built them first, the Federal Disaster Administration requested also that he be named the architect because he could do the work cheaper since he already had the original plans and specifications

and had worked in that area. Mr. Baker has been talked to about this. He has met with the Commission here and he will do the architect fees for 4 per cent which is 2 per cent under the normal state fee. The estimated cost of replacing these facilities is \$274,000. I would like to say the original cost of the buildings and facilities were \$210,000 but the increase comes in replacing these from labor and materials going up so I would like to recommend at this time that the Commission also go along and recommend acceptance of Mr. Baker as architect so he can get started on the plans and specifications which will be brought back to the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

DOYLE BERRY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry. Is there a second?

MARC DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Is there any further discussion?

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I would like to recommend that they be elevated if at all possible.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear any objection?

(no response)

So ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here
made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission Headquarter facilities at Saline and
Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Areas were destroyed
by flood waters, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Assistance
Administration office of the Federal Government will
replace these structures at 100 per cent of cost,
and

WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Assistance
Administration office suggests that the original
architect for the buildings be used for the recon-
struction phase, and

WHEREAS, the State Division of Administration
has named Mr. William R. Baker, Winnsboro, Louisiana,
as architect, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker has stated that his fee for
reconstruction of the Saline and Spring Bayou
facilities will be 4 per cent, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission name Mr. William Baker as architect for the Saline and Spring Bayou headquarter facilities.

JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next item just for information to the Commission, Mr. Peter Duffy, Attorney for the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, gave an opinion, a legal opinion, that local parish governments do not have any authority to veto seasons or have any effect on the seasons established by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Mr. Duffy, after giving his opinion, also requested an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on this matter and Mr. Duffy has received back from the Attorney General's Office a statement concurring with his original opinion. It came from Mr. Michael Duplantier of the Attorney General's Office which stated, "We are in accord with your opinion that no parish governing authority has the unilateral power to adopt an ordinance which vetos a previously fixed hunting season set by the Commission."

That is for the Commission information, Mr. Chairman.

The next item that we have one the agenda pertains to wildlife management areas and refuges. Since Mr. O'Neil has

recommended a trapping season and they have been set by the Commission now, we would also like to recommend the dates for trapping on the wildlife management areas and refuges. We would like to take furbearers on the wildlife management areas, December 8th to February 28, except on the Alexandria State Park and Fort Polk and Peason Ridge which the owners of those have asked that they be closed. Except the Biloxi and Wisner where trapping rights are reserved by the land owner and statewide regulations would then be in effect and except Salvadore, Pointe au Chien and all refuges where season dates are December 1st to February 28th. The recommendations are virtually the same as last year, except the starting date has been moved one day from the 9th to the 8th.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure?

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson. Is there a second?

LLOYD AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? Any objections?

(no response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here
made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the State trapping season will be
open from December 1, 1973, through February 28, 1974,
and

WHEREAS, the wildlife management areas operated
by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission
provide some very good trapping for fur animals, and

WHEREAS, this is another use of the Commission
operated wildlife management areas, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that permits to take
furbearers except otter from December 8 to February 28
on wildlife management areas may be obtained from the
district offices listed below EXCEPT no trapping will
be allowed on Alexander State Forest, Fort Polk and
Peason Ridge; and EXCEPT Biloxi and Wisner where trap-
ping rights are reserved by the landowners and state-
wide trapping regulations will be in effect; and
EXCEPT Salvador, Point au Chien and all refuges where
season dates are December 1 through February 28. For
information pertaining to trapping on Salvador and
Pointe au Chien, contact Refuge Division, Louisiana

Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street,
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

JOE HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item that we have on the agenda is a request received from the East Carroll Police Jury asking that their parish have the two-day any sex deer season rather than the five days that has been set. They also request that the two days be given the first part of the second season since there is a possibility that some other requests coming in, I'd just like to take this under advisement at this time but, too, we have some delegates here from East Carroll Parish. They may not be able to come the next time when all the other seasons are taken in so they may want to be heard at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, let's hear from them. Gentlemen.

JERRY WALLEY: Mr. Chairman, Board's Commission, I'm Jerry Walley, East Carroll Police Jury. On July 25th, in the joint meeting of the people of East Carroll Parish and Police Jury and the Wild Life and Fisheries, we adopted a resolution respectfully requesting a two-day doe season only in East Carroll Parish. We felt like this was appropriate by waiting and having a joint meeting with the people. It cost, I'll say, we have spent approximately a thousand dollars of

taxpayer's money trying to work out a solution in East Carroll Parish satisfactory to the people but we were under the understanding in a joint agreement that this would be a two-day season with the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at the time. Than at a later date, in August, we were of the understanding that there was a five-day season set by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. We still request, Mr. Chairman, Board of Commissioners, that we still have maintained that we have this two-day season at the last season in the split season. We respectfully request that you reconsider this and we state that we are representing the people of East Carroll, the hunting clubs and primarily the land owners and we realize that we have had some back waters that has caused maybe some ill feelings within some of the land owners and maybe some of the hunters but then we reconsider to the point that the deer had to be fed and we realize, too, and I will go along with one of the statements of the Board's Commission that law enforcement at the time which you have these seasons in this particular area is going to cause a great deal of problems and this would cut the expenses, I believe, the gentlemen on the end, Mr. Luttrell, this would cut the cost of the enforcement agents, we believe, too. So, we ask you to respectfully reconsider

that you give us the two-day season that we requested in the joint meeting with Wild Life and Fisheries and, also, I have two other gentlemen: Mr. Phillip Brown, he belongs to several hunting clubs and Police Jury, and Mr. Ledrow Sullivan, Police Jury. Thank you, sir.

MARC DUPUY: Mr. Walley, you are representing the Police Jury, do you feel that there is a unanimous feeling among the members of the Police Jury and the Sportsmen's League of East Carroll Parish?

JERRY WALLEY: Yes, sir. We adopted a unanimous resolution twice and I'd like to, I'll give you a copy of the last resolution and a copy of the letter we mailed. It said "Dear Mr. Yancey: At the regular meeting of the East Carroll Parish Police Jury held on Lake Providence on Wednesday, August 8, 1973, and this was the second resolution. Action was adopted unanimously by the Jury to request the Commission to reconsider their decision to place a three day either sex deer hunting season during the first split deer season and a two day either sex deer season during the second split hunting season for East Carroll Parish as adopted at our July 25, 1973, regular meeting and submitted to the Commission. We, the Jury, the people of East Carroll Parish still respectfully request an either sex deer season be set only for the first two days of

the second split of 1973 said forth deer hunting season."

Now, I would like to say, a point after this we notified every land owner and every hunting club in East Carroll Parish in a joint meeting we called this special meeting of the Police Jury. At the time, we probably had approximately 80 to 100 people in the Parish and we feel like that we are elected by the people and we had to report, you know, respect the wishes of the people and this primarily, I mean. I'll say this, maybe you'll have two or three farmers in a particular area. This question was asked me early in the morning, "what about some of the farmers?" Sure, you'll have one or two farmers are going to complain but you show me a parish in the State of Louisiana that you satisfy 99% of the people. I'd like to see this. Well, we feel like that we are representing the majority of the people and like I say we went to the trouble to cooperate with the Wild Life and Fisheries to call a joint meeting of the people, the Police Jury, and, like I say, we spent approximately on this particular season, approximately a thousand dollars of the taxpayer's money in East Carroll Parish to try to help you work out a problem and solution to this thing and this is our request, this is the people's request, not necessarily the

Police Jury but the request coming from the people, sir.

MARC DUPUY: Well, I think that, I'm not speaking for the biologists, because Mr. Joe Herring will so state his views. I believe the reasons for the suggested 5 days is to give more hunter opportunity and to offset some of this depredation of crops. You know that was a very --

JERRY WALLEY: Well, like I say, we realize that you at the time had crop losses but we also realize, too, that you take into consideration the back waters the deer had very good places to feed and go and we also realize too that maybe hunting, but in this particular area you have mostly hunting clubs that are owned by property owners and clubs and we realize this that you have poachers and we have them. I mean not from the sister state of Arkansas. Man, but we have them, they ride the levees and what have you. It involves and entails a great deal of time and what will happen, I say this, this is where we will get into -- Maybe the second day of the season we'll probably have to have another joint meeting and the Police Jury will probably have to hire additional help to help you patrol the levees and what have you. We've even got into the point where we had some of the people request to close off roads. Just completely close off parish roads. Keep people out. Because they ride these highways

and this is an impossibility. I mean, you just don't have the personnel and we don't and I don't believe that you would. You know in Madison and Tensas and East Carroll Parishes. Three parishes with the doe season. I don't believe you will be able to control this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's see if I get you right. The justification you are telling us to go from 5 to 2, is it the number of deer? What is it?

JERRY WALLEY: The number of deer? That's one of the things because we feel like we have lost, you know, some of the deer and also we feel like the law enforcement problem and feel like, let me go back to this, we have some hunting clubs in our particular area that have fined members of their clubs maybe \$50 to \$100 for killing a doe or for killing a buck with say maybe a spike. They won't even allow them to kill them with spikes. These people have worked to cultivate this crop and they realize it and they want to take, want you to reconsider, we are requesting it. We represent the people; this is not the Police Jury. This is a request of the people of East Carroll Parish. We appreciate the Commission's stand and we appreciate the biologists making a study and we don't question the biologists' study but we are looking at the people, the people who ride these roads every day. The

people know and, like I say, we respectfully request you to reconsider the wishes of the people and not the Police Jury, not the political organization, but the people of East Carroll Parish, the land owners and the property. And, this is a unanimous, like on July 25th we met in a joint meeting and called a special meeting for this particular purpose.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Did I understand you to say that at that meeting it was determined to you that there would be only a two day season.

JERRY WALLEY: This would be the understanding, yes. We felt like the Wild Life and Fisheries would go along with the request.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I think probably you are in error.

JERRY WALLEY: Well, maybe so, sir.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: The reason I say this is because several years ago we had quite a hassle about the biologists, etc., inferior setting of seasons that weren't set at this Commission Meeting and they are all, I think, 100 per cent apprised of this fact. They might have taken your suggestion under consideration but I feel that they didn't say we would have, they certainly didn't have the right, and I don't want to argue with you, I just want to tell you that.

JERRY WALLEY: Let me tell you this first. Maybe not in direct words but let me come back to this. You know the people when the meeting was over, the people and, like I say, you have 80 to 100 people in the meeting representing the land owners. They left with the opinion that nothing, let me come back to this, and I'll say this in defense of the Wild Life and Fisheries, but they left in the opinion, you know, you can leave a meeting with an opinion, that this would be the request that would be handed down from the Commission, the request of the people and the Police Jury.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: Will be handed to the Commission, you mean.

JERRY WALLEY: Yes, sir, and the Commission would consider this and go along with the request of the people and we left with the opinion, nothing concrete, but we left with the opinion that this would be the request of the people.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I just wanted to merely show you that some things you have said, you have to be in error, and I don't know your problem. Only thing I know about it, most of your land is privately controlled.

JERRY WALLEY: This is very true and this is why that, like I say, any time that you have this type of doe season you are asking for poachers to come in and, like I say, no offense to

the State of Arkansas, but we have problems in that particular area by riding the levees.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I guess really what I am saying indirectly through my conversation with you is biologists don't tell you they are going to set a season. The Commission sets it.

JERRY WALLEY: Well, I will say that maybe if you could consider, you know, maybe let the biologists work with the Commission on this particular thing.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I understand.

JERRY WALLEY: We are not being critical but we, like I say, let me come back to this, if the Commission or if the biologists were to set a 5 day season then we would appreciate it if we had been notified through the biologists or through the Commission before the season was set, then we wouldn't have to be here.

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I'm provoking a little argument that I don't intend to.

JERRY WALLEY: That's fine. I represent the people of East Carroll Parish, I don't hunt or fish, so I'm in a neutral position. I'm a public office holder, you know what I mean.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me just ask you something. One of the problems we have about seasons we set them and we publish them and we print the booklets and what not and traditionally

we get a number of people who come back after that and ask for modifications and, of course, we try to discourage that and we always feel that if something is justified and if we are wrong, let's do the right thing.

JERRY WALLEY: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: We sort of found that the earlier you start approving changes the more it encourages more requests for changes.

JERRY WALLEY: Let me ask a question direct to you, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me finish and I'll give you --

JERRY WALLEY: All right, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you have any objection if the Commission considered your request next month?

JERRY WALLEY: Well, I'll say that we will go along with the request but we also request the Commission, I believe, could make a decision this month, sir. The next month you may say that we've got the pamphlets and everything already printed.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think they have already been printed, already printed. I'll be honest with you. I'll vote to help you out next month. I may even do it today.

JERRY WALLEY: Like I say, we would go along with it and I'll be back with the meeting with the Commission next month.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm just suggesting it. I don't know what the Commission wants to do.

DOYLE BERRY: Sir, I believe the people of East Carroll Parish want to run their own business that's what they've agreed on and I certainly want to go along and give it to them.

JERRY WALLEY: Mr. Berry, we appreciate it, let me come back to this. Mr. Jones said that the pamphlets have been printed. This is why we had a joint meeting of the people of East Carroll Parish on July 25th before the pamphlets were printed and tried to work out a solution before the pamphlets were printed.

THE CHAIRMAN: You see, the problem is and what Mr. Thompson was telling you is, the Commission itself sets the season and, of course, the perfect thing would be if we let everybody know what we are going to do and then let them comment on it and, you know, you would have your opportunity to come back but things just don't work out that way.

JERRY WALLEY: I'll agree. We are in great sympathy with you but we would like for you to be in sympathy with us too.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am.

JERRY WALLEY: Are there any other questions?

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's hear from Mr. Herring. Can't tell if

he's smiling or frowning.

JOE HERRING: Mr. Jones, I met with Representative Fox, Police Juries, and several hunters on the afternoon that he is talking about. All of the Police Jurymen were present at this meeting but two. We did give them our recommendations that we would recommend the five days and possibly 10 for that parish. Now, they came up at the meeting with the two days and they wanted these two days at the last part of the season and the reason from one club was that it may help take some deer off because of forest damages from one of the companies. Anyhow, after that meeting they said that we would not, we gave our recommendations on the doe season. They told us that the meeting that afternoon which was 3:00 or 4:00 o'clock that we would not have to meet with them that night. So, we rode around the levee and looked around the parish there. Some farmers we ran into over there suggested that we attend that meeting anyhow. So we did. We went back to the meeting that night. We got there a little bit late because they said we did not have to attend so we got there about 30 minutes late but they were considering the deer season.

As I walked in, Cliff Williams walked in and two other of our employees, they called a ten minute recess. The

President of the Police Jury asked me if I would want to say anything. I said I will say the same thing that I said this afternoon and so the meeting went back into session. He told me it would be better then not to call on me because they were going to pass their resolution for the two days because my recommendations would have been the same as that afternoon.

We have from that Parish a list of crop damage complaints which we have checked and would be glad for the Police Jury to look over these while they are here. The East Carroll Parish, we have 33 farmers that we have received complaints from. The two days that they are requesting would not be adequate time. We do not believe it would alleviate their problem because many of the clubs will not kill doe deer at this time or have an any sex season.

DOYLE BERRY: Joe, you have had this problem of the high water.

JOE HERRING: Yes, we have had it in these river parishes. We have had some crop damage for years. Yes, sir. We may not have had as many, but we have had some. So, we have these complaints and if you would put the --, I know the same people from the outside will come in. They have been worried about people from New Orleans, Baton Rouge,

Shreveport, Alexandria, metropolitan areas coming into their parish and having an enforcement problem. However, East Carroll Parish is controlled by clubs, private lands and I feel sure that I could not go up there and hunt. You could not or could anyone else without an invitation.

I feel like the problem is controlled. You could recommend as long as any season as you wanted in that parish because it is controlled and whatever the clubs would want to take off, is what they would take off.

JERRY WALLEY: Mr. Chairman, could I be recognized again? It's true that the clubs and the people in East Carroll Parish own this and this is what we are representing primarily. Sure we have had maybe 25 or 30 farmers and, like I say, the backwaters have given us problems and true we can control it but we will have less law enforcement problems. If you rule in a five day season then what we are doing then, we are in a sense breaking the law if we say, well, no hunters go in here at all. Only thing we are requesting is to reconsider and we request a decision. I mean that requesting to reconsider and Mr. Joe Herring, if you would like, I worked with Senator Charlie Brown. He's got a nice hunting club. When you are in North Louisiana you can go hunting with us.

THE CHAIRMAN: He wants to go on the 5th day of that doe season. (laughter)

JERRY WALLEY: That's fine. I realize this, Mr. Jones. The stake is high and I realize maybe you could talk to some of those poor farmers but I don't believe they are really hurting that bad because the price of beans is going to bring \$10.00 a quart rather than \$10.00 a bushel.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Gentlemen, what do you want to do?

DOYLE BERRY: I say let them run their own business.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion that we do something?

JIMMIE THOMPSON: I move that we table the motion until next month.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. It has been moved by Mr. Thompson that we table the request until next month. Is there a second?

CLAY LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. Mr. Luttrell seconds. Is there any discussion. All those in favor of tabling the motion until next month, say "aye." Opposed. Let's count the hands.

All those in favor raise your hand. Mr. Luttrell, Mr. Thompson and I vote to table it. That's three. OK. We table the request until next month. The reason that I

vote to table it is to keep down a bunch of other requests.
I'm going to vote to do it next month.

Under other business, we have to set the date for our next Commission meeting and I think we had a suggestion.
Mr. Yancey, what was that date?

RICHARD YANCEY: September 17th and 18th.

THE CHAIRMAN: September 17th and 18th. Does that meet with your approval? It does. I hear no objection.

(no response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

I have no other business except to state that I read an article by one of our employees, Hurley Campbell, that was in Sports Afield. Where's Hurley? (no response)

Dick.

RICHARD YANCEY: We should make an announcement here that this special scaup season will not be held in Louisiana. A check of the fine print was made, some more calls were made over to Atlanta, and that's not being offered so all that discussion was for nothing. It solves that problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other business to come before the Commission?

MARC DUPUY: Yes, I would like to find out why it's not being offered and also raise some other questions with regard to things we can discuss later on.

DOYLE BERRY: We can't get scaups, maybe we can get food stamps. (laughter)

RICHARD YANCEY: It's not being offered because we have elected the point system.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business? Do I hear a motion to adjourn.

DOYLE BERRY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry that the meeting be adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 11:55 o'clock a. m.,
Thursday, August 16, 1973, the monthly
Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life
and Fisheries Commission was adjourned. . .